

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of facilitating a transaction involving a target entity having software assets, comprising:
 - 5 using a software analysis tool to extract information on the target entity's software assets; and
 - performing at least one subsequent step in the transaction as a function of the extracted information.
- 10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes copyright information.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes software owner information.
- 15 4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes third party software information.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes programming language information.
- 20 6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the information includes a high-level quality assessment of the software assets.
- 25 7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein using a software analysis tool comprises:
 - providing software files to the software analysis tool; and
 - 30 obtaining said information from the software analysis tool.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software files include source files.

9. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software
5 files include object files.

10. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of entities having copyright in at least one of the software files.

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11. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of entities and the proportion of the software files in which each of said entities has copyright.

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12. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which no entity has copyright.

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13. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files in which at least one entity has copyright.

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14. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of creators having created at least one of the software files.

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15. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes a list of creators and the proportion of the software files created by each of said creators.

16. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files not specified as being created by any creator.
- 5 17. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files specified as being created by at least one creator.
18. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
10 information includes a list of third party software vendors whose products are needed by at least one of the software files.
19. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
15 information includes a list of third party software vendors whose operating systems are needed by at least one of the software files.
20. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
20 information includes a list of third party software vendors whose software tools are needed by at least one of the software files.
21. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
25 information includes a list of programming languages and the proportion of the software files programmed in each of said programming languages.
22. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the
30 information includes a list of file formats and the proportion of the software files in each of said file formats.

23. A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein using a software analysis tool further comprises:

5 running the software analysis tool on the software files.

24. A method of performing technical due diligence on a target entity having software assets, comprising:

10 providing software files to a software analysis tool; and

obtaining information on the target entity's software assets from the software analysis tool.

25. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the 15 information includes copyright information.

26. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the information includes software owner information.

20 27. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the information includes third party software information.

28. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the 25 information includes programming language information.

29. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the information includes a high-level quality assessment of the software assets.

30. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the 30 software files include source files.

31. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the software files include object files.

32. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
5 information includes a list of entities having copyright
in at least one of the software files.

33. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes a list of entities and the
10 proportion of the software files in which each of said
entities has copyright.

34. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes the proportion of the software files
15 in which no entity has copyright.

35. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes the proportion of the software files
in which at least one entity has copyright.
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36. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes a list of creators having created at
least one of the software files.

37. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes a list of creators and the
proportion of the software files created by each of said
creators.

38. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the
information includes the proportion of the software files
not specified as being created by any creator.

39. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes the proportion of the software files specified as being created by at least one creator.

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40. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose products are needed by at least one of the software files.

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41. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose operating systems are needed by at least one of the software files.

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42. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes a list of third party software vendors whose software tools are needed by at least one of the software files.

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43. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes a list of programming languages and the proportion of the software files programmed in each of said programming languages.

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44. A method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the information includes a list of file formats and the proportion of the software files in each of said file formats.

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45. A method as claimed in claim 29, further comprising:

running the software analysis tool on the software files.

46. A method of facilitating a transaction involving an
5 expanding entity and a target entity having software
assets, comprising:

a third party using a software analysis tool to
extract information on the target entity's software
assets;

10 the third party providing the extracted information
to the expanding entity; and

the expanding entity performing at least one
subsequent step in the transaction as a function of the
information provided by the third party.

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47. A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the third
party is contracted by the expanding entity.

48. A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the third
20 party is contracted by the target entity.